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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-02
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R 292052Z JUL 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6914
INFO NSC WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 002181

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
NSC FOR SALCEDO, AMB. MAISTO

E.O. 12958: NA
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, VE
SUBJECT: POLITICAL UPDATE: JULY 26-29, 2002

SUMMARY

1. ON JULY 26, PRESIDENT CHAVEZ, DURING A VISIT TO GUAYAQUIL FOR
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THE SUMMIT OF LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS, ANNOUNCED PROPOSED
CREATION OF A SOUTH AMERICAN BUSINESS ENTITY COMPRISED OF
PETROLEUM, GAS AND ENERGY. ON JULY 25, THE MISSION OF OAS, UNDP
AND THE CARTER CENTER MET WITH PRESIDENT CHAVEZ AND VP RANGEL IN
WHAT WAS CONSIDERED A "FRUITFUL" MEETING. AS FOR THE FLOODED
AREAS IN WESTERN VENEZUELA, PRESIDENT CHAVEZ DECLARED A STATE OF
EMERGENCY FOR SIX STATES AND PROMISED 4 MILLION BOLIVARES TO AID
AFFECTED AREAS. IN REACTION TO THE MASSIVE FLOODING, THE
AMBASSADOR DECIDED TO EXERCISE HIS AUTHORITY TO DECLARE FLOODING
IN WESTERN VENEZUELA A NATURAL DISASTER. ON JULY 28, MEMBERS OF
THE "CIRCULOS BOLIVARIANOS" PREVENTED A GROUP FROM JUSTICE FIRST
FROM REACHING MIRAFLORES TO DELIVER A GIFT OF "JUSTICE." ON
JULY 29, THE NGO QUEREMOS ELEGIR PLANS TO PROPOSE TO THE
DEMOCRATIC COORDINATING COMMITTEE THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING

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SIMULTANEOUS ACTS OF RECOGNITION TO THE NATIONAL ARMED FORCES ON AUGUST 11 FOR NOT IMPLEMENTING PLAN AVILA ON APRIL 11. END SUMMARY.

CHAVEZ PROPOSES CREATION OF A "ESPECIE DE PETROAMERICA"

2. ON JULY 26, DURING A TWO-DAY VISIT IN GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR, PRESIDENT CHAVEZ PROPOSED THE CREATION OF A SOUTH AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSORTIUM, DEFINED AS "ESPECIE DE PETROAMERICA," ("OIL AMERICA") COMPRISED OF PETROLEUM, GAS AND ENERGY ENTERPRISES. CHAVEZ BELIEVES THAT LATIN AMERICA SHOULD CONSIDER INTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY OF ANDEAN NATIONS AND MERCOSUR BEFORE IT INTEGRATES INTO THE FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS (FTAA).

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INTERNATIONAL MISSION MET WITH CHAVEZ

3. ON JULY 25, FERNANDO JARAMILLO (OAS), ELENA MARTINEZ (UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM) AND JENNIFER MCCOY OF THE CARTER CENTER STATED THAT THE JULY 25 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CHAVEZ AND VP RANGEL WAS "FRUITFUL." JENNIFER MCCOY REITERATED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL MISSION WOULD ONLY PLAY THE ROLE OF FACILITATORS TO THE PROPOSED NATIONAL DIALOGUE. MCCOY ALSO STATED THAT THE MISSION SERVES AS A FOLLOW-UP TO EX-PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT AND IS SEEKING FOR WAYS IN WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN HELP THE VENEZUELAN DIALOGUE.

STATE OF EMERGENCY IN SIX STATES

4. ON JULY 25, PRESIDENT CHAVEZ DECLARED THE STATES OF APURE, BARINAS, PORTUGUESA, AMAZONAS, BOLIVAR AND DELTA AMACURO IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO TORRENTIAL RAINFALLS. BEFORE LEAVING FOR GUAYAQUIL, CHAVEZ ANNOUNCED THE ALLOCATION OF 4 MILLION BOLIVARES TO ASSIST ALL EMERGENCIES IN THE FLOODED AREAS. CHAVEZ ALSO ORDERED THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL COMMITTEE AND LOCAL COMMITTEES TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE VICTIMS AND TOWNS AFFECTED BY THE HEAVY RAINS. ON JULY 26, THE AMBASSADOR DECLARED THE FLOODING IN WESTERN VENEZUELA A NATURAL DISASTER. VENEZUELAN VICE PRESIDENT JOSE VICENTE RANGEL ACCEPTED THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFER OF ASSISTANCE, AND POST HAS FORWARDED A REQUEST TO THE OVERSEAS FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE OFFICE TO SECURE USD 50,000 TO AID RELIEF EFFORTS.

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BOLIVARIAN CIRCLES IMPEDE PASSAGE TO MIRAFLORES

5. CELEBRATING PRESIDENT CHAVEZ' FORTY-EIGHTH BIRTHDAY, A GROUP FROM THE POLITICAL PARTY JUSTICE FIRST (PJ - PRIMERO JUSTICIA) WAS PREVENTED FROM REACHING MIRAFLORES TO DELIVER A BIRTHDAY GIFT TO CHAVEZ ON JULY 28. ACCORDING THE PRESS, AS PJ HEADED TOWARDS MIRAFLORES PALACE, ABOUT 30-50 MEMBERS OF THE "CIRCULOS BOLIVARIANOS"

PREVENTED THE PARTY MEMBERS FROM REACHING THEIR DESTINATION. JOSE CARRANZANA, HEAD OF THE PARTY, EXPLAINED THAT A GIFT OF "JUSTICE" WAS WHAT CHAVEZ NEEDS. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT GLOBOVISION AND UNION RADIO WERE PREVENTED FROM COVERING THE EVENT AND WERE VERBALLY AND PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED.

ANOTHER EVENT PROPOSED TO COMMEMORATE APRIL 11

6. ON JULY 29, THE NGO QUEREMOS ELEGIR PLANS TO PROPOSE TO THE DEMOCRATIC COORDINATING COMMITTEE (DC) RALLIES ON AUGUST 11 TO SALUTE THE NATIONAL ARMED FORCES (FAN) FOR NOT IMPLEMENTING PLAN

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AVILA ON APRIL 11. SUCH ACTS WOULD TAKE PLACE AT ALL THE PLAZA
BOLIVARS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO EL UNIVERSAL, ANDRES
COBA, DIRECTOR OF QUEREMOS ELEGIR ANNOUNCED THAT THE GROUP'S
PRESIDENT ELIAS SANTANA WOULD PROPOSE SUCH IDEA TO THE DC TODAY.
COBA EMPHASIZED THAT THE PROPOSED ACTS ARE OUT OF RESPECT FOR
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THE FAN AND NOT TO CREATE DISORDER.

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